

11. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the oxide crystal further contains an amount of phosphorous, and the method further comprises heating the microsphere in an oxidizing atmosphere after preparing the microsphere and before irradiating with an effective dosage of slow neutrons.

12. (New) The method according to claim 11, further comprising coating the microsphere with a film after heating in the oxidizing atmosphere and before irradiating with an effective dosage of slow neutrons, the film comprising at least one of the compounds selected from silica (SiO₂), titania (TiO₂), alumina (Al₂O₃), iron (III) oxide (Fe₂O₃), silicon nitride (Si₂N₃, SiN, Si₃N₄), aluminum nitride (AlN), titanium nitride (TiN), iron nitride (Fe₂N, Fe₄N), silicon carbide (SiC) and titanium carbide (TiC).

REMARKS

In response to the above Office Action and the requirement for restriction, applicants elect the claims of Group I, namely claims 1-8 and 10, with traverse.

Claim 9 has been cancelled and rewritten as new claim 11 so that it can be examined with elected method claim 8. Contrary to the Examiner's characterization of the difference between the methods of claims 8 and 9, claim 9 merely added additional features to the method of claim 8. In other words, claim 8 was generic to claim 9. Thus claim 9 was rewritten in dependent form as new claim 11 to more clearly reflect this relationship.

New claim 12 is the same as claim 10, but dependent from new claim 11, and claim 10 has been amended to depend solely from claim 8.

In view of this amendment and clarification of the content of the claims, it is believed claims 1-8 and 10-12 can be examined in this application.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com